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GENERAL

1. Brazil favors early date for Rio conference--US Military Attache Rio de Janeiro reports that President Dutra has told US Ambassador Pawley that Brazil favors (a) early recognition of Argentina's efforts to comply with the Chapultepec agreements, (b) acceptance of Argentina into the "Hemispheric brotherhood" and (c) an early conference of the American nations at Rio de Janeiro.
2. Collapse of Azerbaijan called a victory for UN--US Embassy Moscow considers the Azerbaijan collapse a major victory for the United Nations and not a result of a Moscow-Tehran deal. The USSR was caught unprepared and decided to let its Azerbaijan stooges fall rather than to show its hand by overtly supporting them. The USSR will however continue to maneuver not only for oil concessions, but also for political and strategic ascendancy in Iran.

EUROPE

3. USSR: Soviet Government fears famine--US Ambassador Steinhardt reports from Prague that Andrei Zhdanov, Deputy Secretary General of the Communist Party of the USSR, told the Czechoslovakian parliamentary delegation, which recently visited the Soviet Union, that the Soviet Government has "grave fears" of famine next spring. Ambassador Steinhardt adds that the Czechoslovakian delegation was greatly disillusioned by its visit and convinced of Soviet weakness.
4. POLAND: Further pre-election irregularities reported--Mikolajczyk informed US Ambassador Lane on 26 December that he had seen secret orders instructing election officials to disqualify 30% of Polish Peasant Party candidates. He pointed out that more than that percentage has already been arrested or stricken from the list and anticipated that up to 80% of the candidate list will be cut. Mikolajczyk further expressed the opinion that protests by the US and UK should be made prior to elections.

Note of complaint delivered to USSR--Mikolajczyk has informed US Ambassador Lane that on 20 December he delivered a note to the Soviet Ambassador complaining of irregularities practiced on members

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of the Polish Peasant Party. He also complained to the Soviet Ambassador regarding arrests made on orders of Soviet advisers to the Polish Army.

5. FRANCE: Possible Communist-MRP cooperation--Premier-President Leon Blum has told US Ambassador Caffery that he is encouraged by indications that the Communist Party and the MRP are now "more willing to cooperate with his government as well as with each other." Blum attributes this development to fear of another political impasse the blame for which would fall on the party refusing to cooperate; and to an "internal feud" in the Communist Party.

Possible French support of Giral--Premier Blum also told Caffery that he is "toying with the idea" of action short of recognition for the Spanish Government-in-exile. Blum gave as his reason that he "must do something" to prevent French agitation for stronger measures on behalf of Giral.

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